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**1991/05/03**

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TELEGRAM

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5607 EAP5693

ACTION EAP-80

ACTION OFFICE CH-03  
INFO OCT-81 P-01 RA-01 EAP-04 COMG-01 1013 A1 DT

INFO LOG-08 AOS-00 AHAO-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-08 HA-09  
H-01 INRE-00 IRR-01 KGAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-09  
/018W

R 030939Z MAY 91

FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO USIA WASHDC 3743

SECSTATE WASHDC 5104

INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU-POUO

United States Department of State  
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review  
Review Authority: ALNSWORTH, THOMAS  
Date 12/01/94  
Case ID: 9301915

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIJING 12706

USIA

USIA FOR E/AEF, E/ASA, EA; STATE FOR EAP/CH, HA, CA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: HA, CA, SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER MEETS WITH LI TIYEYING--  
PROPOSES AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND IS TOLD  
THAT ALL IS WELL IN CHINA'S CLASSROOMS AND JUDICIARY

1. ENTIRE TEXT LOU.

2. SUMMARY. IN A 14 APRIL MEETING WITH STATE  
COUNCILLOR AND SEC'D CHAIRMAN LI TIYEYING, FORMER  
PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER OUTLINED THE CURRENT PROBLEMS  
FACED BY CHINA'S LEADERS IN REBUILDING THE TRUST  
NEEDED TO ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF CHINA'S MORE THAN  
50,000 OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE U.S., SUGGESTING THAT  
A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRESTED AS  
A RESULT OF THE 1989 DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT WOULD GO FAR  
IN DOING THIS. LI REPLIED BY OUTLINING THE STANDING  
CHINESE GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES OF "LENIENCY" TOWARDS  
OVERSEAS STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PROTESTS AFTER  
THE 1989 TIANANMEN INCIDENT, AND SAID THESE WERE  
SUFFICIENT. LI STRESSED THAT OF THE OVER 5000  
STUDENTS WHO HAD RETURNED EITHER PERMANENTLY OR  
TEMPORARILY TO CHINA LAST YEAR, NOT ONE HAD BEEN  
DETAINED OR PUNISHED. WHEN PRESSED ABOUT POLITICAL  
PRISONERS, LI REPLIED THAT CHINA'S JUDICIARY WAS  
INDEPENDENT AND THAT THE RECENT SENTENCING OF PEOPLE  
ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE "DISTURBANCES" WAS  
STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHINESE LAW. ANY FURTHER  
QUESTIONS CARTER HAD ON THIS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO  
THE SENIOR POLITICAL LEADERS HE WOULD BE MEETING THAT  
DAY, LI SAID. END SUMMARY.

3. THE SUNDAY MORNING MEETING IN THE SOUTH RECEPTION  
HALL OF THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE BEGAN WITH LI  
WELCOMING CARTER AND PRAISING HIS GUIDING ROLE IN  
THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN 1979, AS WELL AS IN THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BILATERAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES  
RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS CARTER'S THIRD  
VISIT TO CHINA, A SIGN OF HIS CONCERN AND FRIENDSHIP.

4. CARTER THANKED LI, TELLING THAT ACTUALLY THIS WAS  
HIS FOURTH VISIT TO CHINA, HIS FIRST BEING POST  
VISITS AS A YOUNG SUBMARINE OFFICER IN 1947, JUST

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BEFORE THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. CARTER  
NOTED THAT HIS VISIT SO FAR HAD BEEN VERY SATISFYING,  
PARTICULARLY HIS VISIT TO THE NUMBER ONE SCHOOL FOR  
THE DEAF YESTERDAY AND THE ONGOING MEETINGS  
CONCERNING CHINA'S COOPERATION IN THE GLOBAL 2000  
PROGRAM.

5. CARTER THEN DESCRIBED HIS CURRENT WORK AS A  
PROFESSOR AT EMORY UNIVERSITY AND VISITING LECTURER  
AT EIGHT OR NINE OTHER UNIVERSITIES A YEAR. HE SAID  
THAT HIS ROLE IN HELPING ESTABLISH THE SINO-U.S.  
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN THE  
OCCASION OF HIS BECOMING FRIENDS WITH MANY CHINESE  
STUDENTS AT EMORY AND HAS PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY  
FOR HIM TO MEET WITH MANY OTHER OF THE 50,000 OR SO  
CHINESE STUDENTS AT AMERICA'S COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES. HE SAID THAT THESE STUDENTS WERE ON  
THE AVERAGE EXCELLENT ACADEMICIANS AND A GREAT  
BENEFIT TO U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION.

6. CARTER NOTED THAT AFTER THE 1989 TIAN'ANMEN  
INCIDENT, HE HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO DENG XIAOPING ON  
BEHALF OF CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S., ASKING THAT  
THEY BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CHINESE  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (OR AT LEAST LEADING CHINESE  
ACADEMICS) IN THE U.S. TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERN

STEMMING FROM THE INCIDENT. DENG HAD REPLIED IN A  
LETTER THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE SO  
SOON AFTER THE TIAN'ANMEN VIOLENCE. CARTER NOTED  
THAT HAD ALMOST TWO YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE  
INCIDENT, AND THAT THE CONCERNS OF THE CHINESE  
STUDENTS IN THE U.S. REMAINED UNADDRESSED. THIS, HE  
SAID, POSED A THREAT TO THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF THE  
EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP BY LESSENING THE CHANCES OF THE  
STUDENTS' RETURN TO CHINA AFTER THEIR STUDIES.

7. CARTER SAID THAT HIS HOPE WAS THAT LI, TOGETHER  
WITH OTHER CHINESE LEADERS SUCH AS LI PENG, WOULD

MAKE EFFORTS TO GET THE TIAN'ANMEN INCIDENT BEHIND  
THEM BY WORKING FOR RECONCILIATION AND RESOLVING THE  
PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM IT. RIGHT OR WRONG, HE SAID,  
THE PERCEPTION OF THE CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S.  
HAD REGARDING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING  
GREAT DAMAGE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO  
COUNTRIES. WHEN LI RAISED HIS EYEBROWS AT THIS,  
CARTER CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT WITHOUT EXCEPTION,  
THE CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S. WERE LOYAL TO CHINA,  
AND WERE NOT PROPHETS OF VIOLENCE. THEY TOO, HE  
SAID, WANTED FOR THE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM JUNE 1989  
TO BE PUT IN THE PAST.

8. IT WAS OBVIOUS, CARTER SAID, THAT THE PRC  
GOVERNMENT HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS CONTROL AND ITS  
ABILITY TO RESTORE ORDER IN CHINA. HIS HOPE AND  
SUGGESTION-HOW WAS THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE TO PUT THE INCIDENT IN THE  
PAST BY DECLARING AN AMNESTY FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED  
IN THE UNFORTUNATE CONFRONTATION. SUCH AN ACT, HE  
SAID, WAS THE ONLY WAY TO RECOVER THE PAIN OF  
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES  
THAT HAD OBTAINED FOR THE TEN YEARS AFTER THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

9. HE NOTED THAT HE PROPOSED THIS AS A PRIVATE  
CITIZEN, AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, AND A  
FRIEND OF CHINA, AND THAT HE WAS NOT MAKING A

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REPRESENTATION FOR THE U.S. THUS THE SUGGESTION WAS  
MEANT AS FRIENDLY ADVICE, NOT AS INTERFERENCE IN  
CHINESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE ASKED WHETHER HE COULD  
GO BACK TO THE U.S. WITH A MESSAGE FOR THE CHINESE  
STUDENTS, AND FOR U.S. OFFICIALS, THAT THE PRC  
GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO BOND UP THE WOUNDS INFILCTED  
BY THE TRAGEDY THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

/  
10. LI REPLIED BY THANKING CARTER FOR HIS VIEWS AND  
CONCERN. HE ESPECIALLY THANKED CARTER FOR HIS  
ENERGETIC EFFORTS AT PROMOTING CARE FOR THE  
HANDICAPPED AND THE TRAINING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
TEACHERS IN CHINA. HE SAID THAT OVER 240 SUCH  
TEACHERS HAD BENEFITED UNDER THE BEIJING NORMAL  
UNIVERSITY SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER  
SUPPORTED BY THE GLOBAL 2000 PROGRAM, A CENTER  
INAUGURATED BY CARTER HIMSELF AND RECENTLY VISITED  
BY LI. HE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT THE NATIONAL  
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAD RECENTLY PROMULGATED A LAW  
PROMOTING THE STATUS OF THE DISABLED, AND GIVING THEM

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN A VARIETY OF PUBLIC  
SERVICES. HE SAID THAT WITH THE EFFORTS OF FOREIGN  
FRIENDS LIKE CARTER AND NATIONAL LEADERS LIKE DENG  
PUFANG, CHINA WOULD CONTINUE IN IMPROVING ITS SUPPORT  
OF THE HANDICAPPED.

/  
11. LI SAID THAT HE SAID HE WANTED TO REPLY TO  
CARTER'S REMARKS ABOUT CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S.  
BY DULINING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD  
THE STUDENTS. HE SAID THAT THE POLICY OF SENDING  
CHINESE STUDENTS ABROAD FOR ADVANCED STUDY WAS A  
CENTRAL POLICY THAT HAD REMAINED CONSISTENT SINCE THE  
OPENING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN 1978 AND THAT "AS  
PART AND PARCEL" OF THE POLICY OF OPENNESS, IT WOULD  
NOT CHANGE. DESCRIBING THE ONGOING BENEFITS OF THE  
SENDING OF CHINESE STUDENTS AND VISITING RESEARCH  
SCHOLARS TO THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR, LI NOTED THAT  
THOSE WHO HAD GONE ABROAD TO STUDY AND HAD RETURNED  
PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN CHINESE ACADEMIA. HE POINTED  
TO THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY  
(ZHANG XIAOWEN), A RETURNED VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLAR  
FROM THE U.S., AS AN EXAMPLE.

/  
12. LI SAID THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT  
EVEN GREATER NUMBERS OF CHINESE STUDENTS WOULD BE  
ABLE TO GO ABROAD TO STUDY OTHER NATIONS' SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS "SUCH CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF  
THEIR AS WERE EXEMPLARY" (TAIHE YOUSUDE WENHUA).

CHUANTONG--NOTE: THE CHINESE TRANSLATOR TRANSLATED  
THIS LAST PHRASE BY A SIMPLE "THEIR OUTSTANDING  
CULTURAL TRADITIONS" DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PHRASE  
IS GENERALLY USED IN A RESTRICTIVE RATHER THAN A  
DESCRIPTIVE SENSE IN CHINESE INTERNAL DOCUMENTS).

/  
13. THIS DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT  
WAS SHOWN IN SEVERAL WAYS. RECENTLY, WITH THE  
COOPERATION OF AMBASSADOR JAMES LILLEY, THE BILATERAL  
EDUCATIONAL PROTOCOL HAD BEEN EXTENDED FOR THREE  
YEARS. THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM HAD BEEN REINSTITUTED  
AND WAS RUNNING SMOOTHLY. LAST YEAR, SOME 14,000  
STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS HAD GONE OVERSEAS: 3,000  
SPONSORED BY THE CENTRAL PRC GOVERNMENT, 4,500  
SPONSORED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND 5,000 SPONSORED  
PRIVATELY.

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14. LI ADDED THAT THE MISGIVINGS OF CHINESE STUDENTS

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IN THE U.S., OUTLINED BY CARTER WERE THE RESULT OF  
MISINFORMED MEDIA REPORTING OF THE REAL CONDITIONS IN  
CHINA. HE SAID THAT THIS RESULTED IN A LACK OF  
KNOWLEDGE ABROAD IN WHAT WAS BEEN HAPPENING IN CHINA  
SINCE THE 1989 CIVIL DISTURBANCES (WONGLUAN--AGAIN,  
THE TRANSLATOR SOFTENED THE MESSAGE BY SIMPLY  
TRANSLATING "THE 1989 INCIDENT").

/  
15. LI SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR AN AMNESTY SINCE  
THE POLICY TOWARD OVERSEAS STUDENTS HAD BEEN TO  
FORGIVE AND DEAL LENIENTLY WITH ALL THOSE WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ABROAD  
DURING THE SPRING OF 1989. HE NOTED THAT HE  
PERSONALLY HAD REITERATED THIS POLICY TO CHINESE

STUDENTS AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS IN SEPTEMBER  
1989 DURING VISITS WITH PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG  
ZEMIN. HE HAD PUBLICLY REPEATED THIS DURING  
PUBLISHED REMARKS IN SPRING FESTIVAL 1990.

/  
16. FURTHER, LI HAD PERSONALLY VISITED WITH CHINESE  
OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN JAPAN IN THE LAST YEAR, AND HAD  
REASSURED THEM ON THE MATTER. HE POINTED TO THE  
SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF ONE YOUNG STUDENT IN JAPAN WHO  
HAD DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY,  
PROTESTING THE CRACKDOWN, AND WHO HAD APPEARED ON  
JAPANESE TELEVISION. AFTER REASSURING THE STUDENT  
THAT ALL WAS FORGIVEN, THE STUDENT AGREED TO HAVE HIS  
PICTURE TAKEN WITH LI, NOW THAT THINGS WERE SET  
STRAIGHT AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE REAL CONDITIONS IN  
CHINA.

/  
17. LI CLOSED HIS SURVEY OF CHINESE POLICY REGARDING  
THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS BY MAKING TWO POINTS-- AS DUE  
TO PRESENT CONDITIONS, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS  
WILLING TO ACCEPT EXTENSION REQUESTS FROM STUDENTS  
OVERSEAS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY MAY HAVE  
ORIGINALLY BEEN PUBLICLY SPONSORED, AND AS OF 5,386  
OVERSEAS STUDENTS WHO RETURNED TO CHINA LAST YEAR  
(2,300 RETURNING FOR RESIDENCE; 3,000 RETURNING FOR  
SHORT-TERM VISITS), NOT ONE HAD EXPERIENCED  
PERSECUTION OR HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THE  
COUNTRY AGAIN. (COMMENT: THESE NUMBERS ARE  
SUBSTANTIALLY DOWN FROM THOSE PREVIOUSLY CITED BY LI  
IN SIMILAR MEETINGS; AND ARE LIKELY MUCH CLOSER THE

MARK. END COMMENT.)

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18. LI ADDED THAT HE WAS CONTINUING TO WORK WITH  
LOCAL UNIVERSITIES IN MAKING CLEAR THESE POLICIES OF  
THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAS  
ENCOURAGED UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS IN CHINA WHO HAVE  
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE U.S.  
TO MEET WITH THEM WHILE ON TRIPS ABROAD TO FURTHER  
"CLARIFY THE REAL SITUATION." HE SAID THAT IF CARTER  
HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, HE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS HELP IN  
CONVEYING THE POLICY OF LENIENCY TO THE STUDENTS IN  
THE U.S., ADDING THAT THERE WERE ANY OF THEM TO ENCOUNTER  
DIFFICULTY IN GETTING EXIT PERMITS TO LEAVE THE PRC

AFTER RETURNING FOR FAMILY VISITS, THEY COULD WRITE  
TO LI HIMSELF AND HE WOULD PERSONALLY INTERVENE ON  
THEIR BEHALF.

/  
19. CARTER REPLIED THAT WHILE THE PERSPECTIVES ON  
WHAT OCCURRED IN MAY AND JUNE OF 1989 IN BEIJING WERE  
VERY DIFFERENT, MOST INTELLIGENT OBSERVERS WERE  
AGREED THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED OR PERHAPS OVER 1000

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STUDENTS AND WORKERS WERE KILLED DURING THE NIGHT OF 3-4 JUNE 1989 IN BEIJING. FURTHER, MOST AGREED THAT MORE THAN 1600 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT, AND THAT PRISON SENTENCES OF UP TO 13-15 YEARS HAD BEEN METED OUT IN SOME CASES, AND WORKERS HAD BEEN SENT TO REFORM-THROUGH-LABOR CAMPS AS WELL. THOUGH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT SUCH REPORTS

EXAGGERATED MATTERS, CARTER CONFESSED THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE WHOSE CONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS WAS ACCURATE. BUT HE REPEATED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE QUESTION OF NUMBERS, AMNESTY TO THOSE DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT ITSELF MEANTED THAN LENIENCY TO OVERSEAS STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED AFTER THE CRACKDOWN, WAS THE CLEAREST WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND GET THE MATTER IN THE PAST.

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20. LI SMILED AND SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF THE TRIALS WAS A SEPARATE MATTER, SINCE "THE CHINESE JUDICIARY IS INDEPENDENT, AND ALL OF THESE COURT PROCEEDINGS ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHINESE LAW." HE SAID THAT CARTER WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH OTHER CHINESE LEADERS THAT HE MET WITH DURING HIS VISIT. COMMENT. CARTER WAS TO MEET SECRETARY GENERAL JIANG ZEPHAN AND PREMIER LI PENG THAT SAME DAY. END COMMENT.

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21. RISING AT THE END OF THE MEETING, CARTER ASKED WHETHER HANDICAPPED STUDENTS IN CHINA WERE ADMITTED INTO THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH A REGULAR TESTING PROCEDURE. LI REPLIED THAT BOTH SPECIAL ENROLLMENT AND MAINSTREAMING WERE USED IN PROVIDING HANDICAPPED STUDENTS UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONS IN CHINA.

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22. PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: FROM THE CARTER CENTER, PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER, JIM BRASHEAR, TED LIU, AND MELISSA MONTGOMERY. FROM THE STATE EDUCATION COMMISSION, LI

TIEYING. FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LIU HUAGUO, ZHANG YISU, YANG JIECHI, AND AS INTERPRETER MA XUESONG. FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR JAMES LILLEY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNSELOR ANDRES ONUATE, PRESS OFFICER EDWARD LOO, AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES OFFICER ANTHONY HUTCHINSON, WHO SERVED AS NOTETAKER.

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23. COMMENT. THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL, AND FRIENDLY DESPITE THE CLEAR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AND APPROACH. THE TRANSLATOR TONED DOWN SEVERAL OF LI'S COMMENTS, WHILE BEING SCRUPULOUS IN RENDERING CARTER'S SUGGESTIONS. END COMMENT.

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24. A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE WAS PROVIDED TO FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER'S PARTY. HE DID NOT CLEAR THE TEXT.  
LILLEY

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